

owes a great debt, for the families in desperate need for housing throughout this Nation, and protect basic research for the benefit of all Americans as we enter the 21st century.

IN RECOGNITION OF ART IBLETO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend, Art Ibleto, who is being honored this month by the Order Sons of Italy in America-Grand Lodge of California for his lifetime of achievements.

Mr. Ibleto served as President of the Grand Lodge of California from 1995-1997 and will receive the accolades of friends and family at the Lodge's 74th Anniversary on September 18, 1999.

Mr. Ibleto's accomplishments are many. As a young man during WW II in Italy, he joined the underground to fight against Nazi Germany and the Fascists. His specialty was demolition—planting explosives under bridges and railroads and in highway tunnels to hinder the German advance.

Following the war, Mr. Ibleto immigrated to the United States and eventually settled in Sonoma County where he worked in the fields picking vegetables and as a mechanic, truck driver and factory worker.

He married his wife, Vicki Ghiradelli Ibleto, in 1951 and they bought their first home and acreage in 1961. Art and Vicki raised hogs and cows and harvested potatoes before moving on to the more lucrative ventures of growing Christmas trees and building and renting duplexes.

Art and Vicki became members of the Sons of Italy, Pentaluma Lodge 1518 in 1958. He served in various offices of his local lodge, including two terms as President. He also served as Grand Deputy to the Santa Rosa Lodge for many years, National State Delegate for 24 years, State Vice President for four years, and eventually attained the office of State President in 1995. In his leadership roles at the local, state, and national levels, Art has diligently promoted Italian culture, language and cuisine.

In 1974 Art started the Spaghetti Palace at the Sonoma County Fair as a United Lodges, Sons of Italy project. In a very short time, the Spaghetti Palace became the number one vendor at the county fair, a distinction it has sustained through the 1999 season.

As a result of the success of the Spaghetti Palace, Art took on a new career of supplying local stores with his own line of Italian cuisine and catering special events. He is known throughout California for his savory dishes and has earned the title of the "Pasta King."

Art is now the new owner of a vineyard and soon will be shipping wine under the Ibleto Winery label.

Mr. Speaker, because of Art Ibleto's commitment to his native country and to the Italian American people in the United States, it is fitting and proper to honor him today for his many accomplishments and contributions.

A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT P. MIELE

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Robert P. Miele on his retirement after 34 years of distinguished service to the people of Los Angeles County, California through his work at the County Sanitation Districts.

Over the course of his long career at the Sanitation Districts, Bob Miele has worked diligently to protect the health and safety of Los Angeles County's residents by helping to build the Districts into one of the largest, most efficient and technologically advanced wastewater treatment and solid waste disposal systems in the world.

Bob began his career at the Sanitation Districts in 1965 as a Project Engineer, after completing his Master of Science degree in Sanitary Engineering at Pennsylvania State University. He rose steadily through the ranks to become the Head of the Research Section of the Technical Services Department, the Assistant and finally the Head of the Technical Services Department, a position he has held for the past twenty years.

As Head of the Technical Services Department, he has overseen the day-to-day operations of a truly impressive organization. The Sanitation Districts serve five million people and nine thousand industries in Los Angeles County. In addition to providing advanced wastewater treatment and solid waste disposal, the Districts also perform effluent and water quality monitoring, laboratory support, scientific research, and importantly in Southern California's dry climate, reclamation of millions of gallons per day of water that can be reused to keep Los Angeles County green and replenish its vital aquifers. Bob Miele's leadership has been important in ensuring the great successes of these operations.

Bob is also deserving of highest commendations for the many outstanding contributions he has made to state and national organizations concerned with water quality and sanitation. Throughout his illustrious career he has served as a member, a chairman, and a founder of numerous organizations including: The California Association of Sanitation Agencies, the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, the Waste Reuse Association of California, the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies, and others.

As a former Director of the Southeast Los Angeles County Sanitation District, I am very pleased to offer this tribute to Robert P. Miele for his outstanding record of exemplary service to the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts and to extend sincere best wishes to him in his retirement.

CONGRATULATIONS J.W. "SKIP" TINNEN UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PAT DANNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Mr. DANNER. Mr. Speaker, my good friend and constituent, J.W. "Skip" Tinnen will soon

be retiring from the board of directors of Saint Luke's Northland Hospital and I want to express my best wishes to him on this occasion.

Skip was first elected to the board of directors of the Spelman Memorial Hospital (which later became Saint Luke's Northland Hospital in 1978.) He served as an active member of the board until January 1999, when he was elected to Emeritus status, and he continues to serve in this capacity. He is the first member of the board of Saint Luke's Northland or Spelman Memorial Hospital to serve in this role.

Skip has actively served on many committees of the hospital board including Finance Committee; Long Range Planning Committee, Joint Conference Committee, Public Relations & Personnel Committee and Strategic Planning Committee. During the years 1994 and 1995 he had a perfect attendance at hospital board meetings. He has been very active in the expansion of the hospital facility. Also, he has been an active supporter of the philanthropic efforts of the hospital which include the golf classic and serving as vice president of the Spelman Medical Foundation.

Not only has Skip served the local health care community, he is also active in many civic and community organizations. He is the owner of the Plattsburg Leader newspaper and is very active with the Northwest Missouri Press Association.

Skip Tinnen's contributions to Saint Luke's Northland Hospital, the community, the sixth Congressional District of Missouri and our Nation should not go unnoticed. For all his many efforts on behalf of that which is good in our country, I want to say "Thank you, Skip, job well done."

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ACT OF 1999

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the Universal Pre-Kindergarten and Early Childhood Education Act of 1999 (Universal Pre-K), a bill to begin the process of introducing universal pre-kindergarten into the nation's public schools by adding an additional grade in elementary school as an option for every 4-year-old child, and in some cases under 4, regardless of income. I seek to include my bill in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which is scheduled to be reauthorized during this Congress. The authorization task will be to reshape the federal government's role to fit the challenges of the next century, which parents and school systems are already experiencing. In particular, the new science on brain development, decades of successful experience with high quality Head Start programs, and definitive data from an array of the best experts all indicate that the expansion of universal pre-kindergarten is the next frontier in education.

The bill I introduce today adds a section to Title X, Part I of ESEA, entitled the 21st Century Community Learning Centers, aimed at